



ACWS Innovations Conference 2024

October 24 - 25, 2024 ● Edmonton

Enhancing Sector Knowledge

*Emerging theory, good practices, and
innovative on-the-ground strategies for
supporting culturally diverse clients and staff*

Fantasyland Hotel
17700 87 Avenue NW
Edmonton, AB

ACWS

Alberta Council of
Women's Shelters

Welcome

On behalf of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2024 Innovations Conference. This event is a unique opportunity to celebrate the ongoing innovation, resilience, creativity, and connection of domestic abuse shelters in Alberta. This event has so much to offer – incredible speakers, engaging presentations, thoughtful and progressive developments in the sector, and the opportunity to gather with our colleagues to celebrate our achievements against incredible odds.

Though this is our first Innovations Conference, innovation is not new in domestic abuse shelters across Alberta. It is your skills, your adaptations, your ingenuity, and your courage that keeps women, children, and seniors safe from abuse. Alberta's domestic abuse shelters have served over 2 million people in Alberta since we began tracking data, and we know that more people need your help. During this conference, we will have the chance to explore what is working, what we can improve, and how we can work together to keep the doors open to Albertans in need. We will learn about challenges and successes in supporting diverse populations and imagine new ways to work together as we look ahead.

The work ACWS members do in their communities is challenging, rewarding, and vital. And we are at our best when we connect with our colleagues and build on each other's lessons learned. Because together, we are stronger.



Cat Champagne
Executive Director, ACWS



Land Acknowledgement

The Innovations Conference of 2024 and ACWS acknowledges the traditional lands upon which we live, work, and play. We recognize that all Albertans are Treaty people and have a responsibility to understand our history so that we can learn from the past, be aware of the present, and create a just and caring future. ACWS celebrates and values the resiliency, successes, and teachings that Indigenous people have shown us.

The ACWS office is located on Treaty 6 land in Amiskwacîwâskahikan, which is the traditional territory of the Plains Cree and an ancient gathering place of many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. These lands have also been home to, and a central trading place of, the Blackfoot, Nakota, Assiniboine, Dene, the Métis people of western Canada, and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel.

We honour the courage and strength of Indigenous women. We honour them as life givers and care givers as we honour and learn from their continuing achievements, their consistent strength, and their remarkable endurance.

Our members serve all nations and all peoples. They are located on Treaty 4, 6, 7, and 8 lands across this province which include the five Métis territories of Alberta.

Statement of Principles

The 2024 ACWS Innovations Conference will be guided by two primary statements: the ACWS Ethical Moral Framework, and the Event Statement of Principles. These two guiding statements will inform the development, design, delivery, and evaluation of the 2024 conference.

ACWS Ethical Moral Framework

The full Ethical Moral Framework can be found on the [ACWS website](#). Its primary principles are:

- Respect for the Dignity of Persons
- Responsible Caring
- Integrity in Relationships
- Responsibility to Society

Event Statement of Principles

The Innovations Conference seeks to foster an ethical and inclusive space, where all conference participants can partake in productive and forward-thinking discussions in a good way.

Thank You

This project is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Government of Alberta Ministry of Children and Family Services and Ministry of Immigration and Multiculturalism.

The logo for the Government of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a grey, cursive script font. A small blue square is positioned at the end of the word, to the right of the letter 'a'.

Alberta



ALBERTA

IMMIGRATION AND MULTICULTURALISM

Office of the Minister

MLA, Calgary-North

Greetings from the Honourable Muhammad Yaseen Alberta's Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism

*Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Innovation Conference
October 24 & 25, 2024*

As the Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism, part of my role is to ensure that newcomers have the support they need to integrate into the rich multi-cultural landscape in Alberta are set up for success in their new home province.

Our rich cultural fabric is one of our strengths, but it also brings unique challenges for many facing the dual burden of domestic abuse and the complexities of cultural, language, and other immigration-related barriers.

The work of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters in addressing these challenges is vital. It contributes to a more resilient and supportive society where everyone has the opportunity to live free from violence and fear.

By creating safe spaces that are welcoming to all, we are upholding the core Canadian values of compassion, justice, and respect for individual dignity.

I commend your dedication to making this vision a reality and encourage you to continue your important work in advocating for and supporting your ethnocultural clients.

On behalf of Alberta's Government, thank you for your unwavering commitment to the well-being of all who seek refuge in your shelters.

The Honourable Muhammad Yaseen, ECA
Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism



Conference Agenda - Day 1

Thursday, October 24

- 8:00 - 9:00 AM** **Breakfast and Registration**
Lobby and Ballroom D
- 9:00 - 9:45 AM** **Welcome and Elder Blessing**
Ballroom D
- 9:45 - 10:45 AM** **Working with Children, Youth and Families with Complex Challenges: Skills to Build Resilience: Part One**
Ballroom D
- 10:45 - 11:00 AM** **Break**
Lobby
- 11:00 - 12:00 PM** **Working with Children, Youth and Families with Complex Challenges: Skills to Build Resilience: Part One**
Ballroom D
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM** **Lunch**
Lobby and Ballroom D
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM** **Breakout Sessions 1**
- Room A** – Cultivating Healthy Relationships through the Immigrant Youth Leading Change Project
Presenter: Aneela Azeem and Aiman Zaheen, Maskan, and Joe Campbell, ACWS
- Room B** – The Evolving Client Experience: Rural Shelter Perspective: Stay-in-the-Life of a Shelter Client
Presenter: Carolyn Lavallee and Paulette Leer, Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association
- Room C** – Enhancing Support for Ethnoculturally Diverse Survivors and Staff
Presenter: Jerilyn Dressler and Kristen Woodhouse, Discovery House

2:10 - 3:10 PM

Breakout Sessions 2

Room A – Through The Eyes Of A Child - A child's life in Shelter

Presenter: Rhonda Van Rootselaar, Northern Haven Support Society

Room B – Reaching Across Cultures Using Innovation

Presenter: Michele Markham, Sage Seniors Association

Room C – Men's Network

Presenter: Shauna Bell, Hiba Abdalaziz, and Erika Majorga, Cantara House

3:10 - 3:20 PM

**Break
Lobby**

3:20 - 4:20 PM

Breakout Sessions 3

Room A – Accredited Facility Dogs in Practice

Presenter: Christie Pettipas, Yolanda Watson, and Cara Bradley, Bow Valley and Heart Home Network

Room B – The Voice Of Africa

Presenter: Dee Adekubge and Anna Ikechi, Ruth's House

Room C – Help is all around: A review of best practices in Camrose Women's Shelter

Presenter: Nora-Lee Rear, Devona Gibson, Tammy Giroux, and Leslie Lindballe, Camrose Women's Shelter

4:20 - 4:30 PM

**Adjournment and Energizer
Ballroom D**

Conference Agenda - Day 2

Friday, October 25

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Breakfast
Lobby and Ballroom D

9:00 - 10:30 AM

Creating Culturally Safe Services for Indigenous Survivors of Gender Based and Sexual Violence: Moving from Cultural Awareness to Cultural Safety: Part One
Ballroom D

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Break
Lobby

10:45 - 12:00 PM

Creating Culturally Safe Services for Indigenous Survivors of Gender Based and Sexual Violence: Moving from Cultural Awareness to Cultural Safety: Part Two
Ballroom D

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Lunch & Partnership Plenaries
Lobby and Ballroom D

12:15 - 12:30 – Opportunities and Investments for Community Agencies and Scholars to Address Gender-Based Violence
Presenters: Dr. Nicole Letourneau, The Alliance against Violence and Adversity

12:30 - 12:45 – Shelter Pulse Database: Building Capacity for Rural Women's Shelters Across Canada
Presenters: Mary McGuire, Rural Development Network

12:45 - 1:00 – Women in Trades: Pathways to Economic Security
Presenters: Susana Vela, Women Building Futures

1:00 - 2:00 PM

Breakout Sessions 4

Room A – Breaking the Silence: Addressing Lateral Violence in the Workplace

Presenter: MaryDawn Eggleton, Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter

Room B – Redefining Safe and Sustainable Exits from Shelter

Presenter: Ashley Baxter and Nova Winter, WIN House

Room C – Pathways of Care - Strengthened by an Internal Community of Practice

Presenter: Kathryn Ford, SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster

2:00 - 2:15 PM

Break

Lobby

2:15 - 3:15 PM

Rapid Fire Theatre

Ballroom D

3:15 - 3:30 PM

Adjournment and Energizer

Ballroom D

Thursday, October 24

Breakout Sessions 1: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Cultivating Healthy Relationships through the Immigrant Youth Leading Change Project

Join Maskan Family Association and ACWS to learn more about Immigrant Youth Leading Change – a project to engage Immigrant, Newcomer, and Refugee Youth in violence prevention through a shelter lens. The presenters will share how they worked with community partners to revise the Leading Change™ curriculum and how they are bringing this new curriculum to life.

Presenters:

Aneela Azeem and Aiman Zaheen, Maskan
Joe Campbell, ACWS

Location:

Room A

The Evolving Client Experience: Rural Shelter Perspective: Stay-in-the-Life of a Shelter Client

The Evolving Client Experience: Rural Shelter Perspective: Stay-in-the-Life of a Shelter Client. We will be telling the story of "Marie", from phone call to her stay in Second Stage in a rural Alberta town.

Presenters:

Carolyn Lavallee and Paulette Leer, Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association

Location:

Room B

Enhancing Support for Ethnoculturally Diverse Survivors and Staff

Balancing the many aspects of life is pivotal to wellness. Learn how Discovery House created a diverse array of culturally empowering opportunities for healing.

Presenters:

Jerilyn Dressler and Kristen Woodhouse, Discovery House

Location:

Room C

Thursday, October 24

Breakout Sessions 2: 2:10 - 3:10 PM

Through The Eyes Of A Child - A child's life in Shelter

The presentation will lead participants through the building of an effective, trauma-informed child care program for children admitted to domestic violence shelters across all ages from prenatal and newborn to adolescence.

Presenters:

Rhonda Van Rootselaar,
Northern Haven Support
Society

Location:

Room A

Reaching Across Cultures Using Innovation

Recognizing that within a variety of cultural contexts elder abuse can be a very difficult topic, a topic not discussed/addressed outside of family or an issue that is not recognized, Sage Seniors Association undertook a project focused on reducing barriers to information and access to support.

Presenters:

Michele Markham, Sage
Seniors Association

Location:

Room B

Men's Network

Men's Circle is a pilot project created to educate/empower newcomer men on healthy relationships, roles/responsibilities under the law and Children Services.

Presenters:

Shauna Bell, Hiba
Abdalaziz, and Erika
Majorga, Cantara House

Location:

Room C

Thursday, October 24

Breakout Sessions 3: 3:20 - 4:20 PM

Accredited Facility Dogs in Practice

Heart Home Network (HHN) provides second stage housing for domestic violence victims in Calgary. In 2020, HHN introduced Swell, a facility dog, enhancing support for staff and clients. Research with Bow Valley College identified strategies for effectively integrating Swell into their programs. Our presentation shares the benefits, challenges, and best practices of utilizing a facility dog in a second stage domestic violence shelter.

Presenters:

Dr. Christie Pettipas, Yolanda Watson, and Cara Bradley, Bow Valley and Heart Home Network

Location:

Room A

The Voice of Africa

Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) within Alberta's African community involves understanding the unique cultural, social, and structural factors at play. By breaking the silence and engaging with community leaders and members, we can gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities for creating effective preventions and interventions.

Presenters:

Dee Adekubge and Anna Ikechi, Ruth's House

Location:

Room B

Help is all around: A review of best practices in Camrose Women's Shelter

The Camrose Women's Shelter shares innovative practices in Shelter, Family Support, and Outreach services. These practices support clients and staff with diverse needs, advocates for clients with Child and Family Services, and integrates community strengths into service provision.

Presenters:

Nora-Lee Rear, Devona Gibson, Tammy Giroux, and Leslie Lindballe, Camrose Women's Shelter

Location:

Room C

Friday, October 25

Featured Plenary: 9:00 - 12:00 PM

Featured
Plenary

Creating Culturally Safe Services for Indigenous Survivors of Gender Based and Sexual Violence: Moving from Cultural Awareness to Cultural Safety

This presentation is intended to educate and support non-Indigenous service providers to develop a deeper understanding of what 'cultural safety' is, the steps and considerations to create cultural safe spaces, including best practices and approaches to take when working with Indigenous survivors of violence and their families.

What to Expect:

- Increased awareness and understanding of the importance of Indigenous culture and traditions.
- Increased understanding of the importance and implementation of the TRC Calls to Actions, MMIWGS Calls to Justice, etc. in your organization.
- Understanding the learning journey of Cultural Sensitivity to Cultural Safety.

Presenters:

Jeannette MacInnis, Linda Boudreau-Semanganis, Theresa "Corky" Larsen Jonasson, and Montana Wells, Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

Time:

Part One: 9:00 - 10:30

Break: 10:30 - 10:45

Part Two: 10:45 - 12:00

Friday, October 25

Partnership Plenaries: 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Partnership
Plenaries**

Opportunities and Investments for Community Agencies and Scholars to Address Gender-Based Violence

AVA provides innovative, evidence-based training, mentorship, and knowledge mobilization resources to researchers and community agency partners, addressing gender-based violence and ACEs to foster collaborative, equity-focused community-academic relationships and solutions.

Presenters:
Dr. Nicole Letourneau,
The Alliance against
Violence and Adversity

Time:
12:15 - 12:30

Shelter Pulse Database: Building Capacity for Rural Women's Shelters Across Canada

Discover how one conversation between two organizations led to a database of 73 policies, integrating trauma-informed, inclusive, accessible, reconciliatory, gender-expansive, and culturally safe practices.

Presenters:
Mary McGuire, Rural
Development Network

Time:
12:30 - 12:45

Women in Trades: Pathways to Economic Security

Join us to share stories and "Tools for Success" to support readiness for training and employment in trades and transportation careers. Learn about free programs, readiness supports and partnerships that enhance gender equity and economic security for women and gender diverse people.

Presenters:
Susana Vela

Time:
12:45 - 1:00

Friday, October 25

Breakout Sessions 4: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Breaking the Silence: Addressing Lateral Violence in the Workplace

In this session participants will explore a comprehensive understanding of lateral violence and the tools needed to create a healthier, more supportive work environment.

Presenters:

MaryDawn Eggleton,
Central Alberta Women's
Emergency Shelter

Location:

Room A

Redefining Safe and Sustainable Exits from Shelter

In a workshop-style environment, explore and offer feedback on a proposed framework for "safe and sustainable client exits," emphasizing long-term stability, empowerment, and safety.

Presenters:

Ashley Baxter and Nova
Winter, WIN House

Location:

Room B

Pathways of Care - Strengthened by an Internal Community of Practice

Connecting our program teams builds our capacity. Learn about Spark Foundation's initiatives to enhance client services and outcomes through improved Pathways of Care and the development of an Internal Case Management Community of Practice.

Presenters:

Kathryn Ford, SPARK
Foundation of
Lloydminster

Location:

Room C

Dr. Michael Ungar

Keynote Speaker

Michael Ungar, Ph.D. (*he/him*), is the founder and Director of the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Child, Family and Community Resilience. His ground-breaking work as a family therapist and resilience researcher is recognized around the world.

His work has influenced the way human development and organizational processes are understood and studied globally, with much of Dr. Ungar's clinical work and scholarship focused on the resilience of marginalized children and families, and adult populations experiencing mental health challenges at home and in the workplace. He is the author of over 250 peer reviewed articles and book chapters and 17 books.



Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association

Featured Plenary

Jeannette (JJ) MacInnis (she/her) is a two world walker, Nakota Sioux and Scottish. She has an extensive background in a multitude of areas including government engagement and relationship building, external stakeholder engagement, program development, implementation, and Indigenous evaluation whose work has primarily focused the social determinate's of Indigenous health and wellness. She is currently the Director of Partnerships at the ANFCA and also oversees the ANFCA's Education, GBV, and Health portfolios.



Linda Boudreau-Semaganis (she/her) is Cree Metis. Since 1990 Linda has lived in St. Paul, Alberta and has been associated with the Friendship Centres in Alberta. Her passion is working with her fellow Elders and the youth in enhancing the knowledge about culture, history, traditions and protocols. She believes that sharing the cultural knowledge and skills with others - especially the youth - ensures a future that will always include our Indigenous ways and history and maintaining a sense of positive pride in our identity.



Theresa "Corky" Larsen Jonasson (she/her) is a 64 year old Cree Metis woman living in Red Deer, Alberta. Her grandmother, Christine Fraser Joseph and great grandmother Mary Susan Potts Fraser, lived and were schooled in Maskwacîs Cree Nation, Alberta. Corky works alongside of her husband of 44 years, Lynn. They live a life of traditional teachings and ceremony as best they can and strive to pass those teachings on. Corky acknowledges her "teachers" that make it possible for her to do this work of bridging, building trust, strengthening relationships and moving towards true reconciliation.



Montana Wells, (Saoki Sipistto Aakii) (she/her) is a Cree and Blackfeet woman who was born and raised on Treaty 6 Territory, Edmonton, Alberta and is a proud member of Enoch Cree Nation. Grounded by her culture, Montana is committed to growing her knowledge and honouring her Ancestors as she continues her career path as the Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association's Womens Wellness Project Coordinator.



Speaker and Presenter Bios

Aneela Azeem - *she/her*

Aneela is the founder and executive director of Maskan Family Association. In 2019, she founded Maskan—a pioneering transitional shelter in Calgary designed specifically for women and children fleeing domestic violence. Maskan, “safe place” in Urdu, provides a range of essential services aimed at fostering independence and preventing family violence.



Aiman Zaheen - *she/her*

Aiman is the Gender-Based Project Lead of Maskan Family Association. She is passionate about working with immigrant, newcomer, and refugee youth, aiming to create cultural change by empowering young people to address the sensitive issue of gender-based violence while debunking stereotypes in their communities.



Joe Campbell - *he/him*

Joe Campbell is a Leading Change™ Community Developer with the Alberta Council of Women’s Shelters. A graduate of the Social Work program at Mount Royal University, Joe is passionate about working with men and boys to explore the intersection of masculinity and violence.



Paulette Leer - *she/her*

Paulette is the Second Stage Program Coordinator at Mountain Rose Centre in Rocky Mountain House. She started as a Crisis Worker 14 years ago, then became an Outreach Worker, and is now the Second Stage Coordinator. Her background is in Rehabilitation Services. She enjoys seeing people make progress and growth!



Carolyn Lavallee - she/her

Carolyn is the Family Support Worker at Mountain Rose Centre in Rocky Mountain House. She started as a childcare worker 4 years ago. Carolyn's background is in Early Childhood Development and she has a passion for making a difference in the world for children.



Kristen Woodhouse - she/her

Kristen has been a devoted and compassionate Discovery House team member for five years. Kristen is Saulteaux Cree and a member of the Muscowpetung Nation, Treaty 4. As the Discovery House Cultural Liaison, she creates safe, inclusive learning opportunities that help families heal from the trauma of domestic violence.



Jerilyn Dressler - she/her

Jerilyn is the Director of Programs at Discovery House and has spent 20+ years in the social profit sector. Jerilyn was instrumental in launching Canada's first suicide prevention service and bringing 211 services to Albertans. Jerilyn holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Calgary, specializing in Leadership.



Rhonda Van Rootselaar - she/her

Rhonda Van Rootselaar is a Metis woman and mother of three with a background in Early Childhood Education, who was raised in the Slave Lake area and has spent the last 12 years with the Northern Haven Support Society building and overseeing the organization's programming for clients and their children.



Michele Markham - she/her

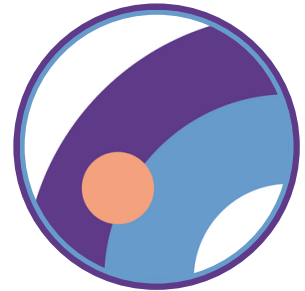
Michele Markham, Sage Seniors Association, is a registered social worker and the manager of the Sage Seniors' Safe House, a shelter in Edmonton for older adults needing safety from abuse. In addition to overseeing elder abuse support services, Michele is a board member of both the Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Council and the Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.



Speaker and Presenter Bios

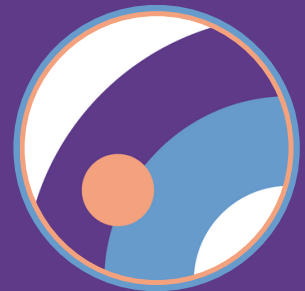
Shauna Bell - *she/her*

Shauna Bell, Executive Director of Cantara House in Brooks for the last 15 years, has a Master's Degree in Social Work and has worked in the field in a variety of capacities for over 30 years.



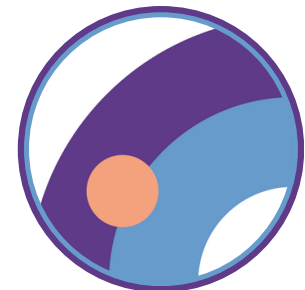
Hiba Abdalaziz - *she/her*

Hiba Abdalaziz is an Outreach Worker specializing in working with new Canadians and has worked at Cantara for the last 9 years, has a degree in psychology and a certificate in Mediation and has provided much needed court support for clients (both men and women) as well as mediation for high conflict parents



Erika Majorga - *she/her*

Erika Majorga has a diploma in social work and addictions and has been with the shelter for 7 years. She is the coordinator of the Domestic Violence Intervention Team and provides Outreach and court support to New Canadians as well.



Cara Bradley - *she/her*

Cara Bradley is the dedicated Director of Brenda Strafford Foundation's Heart Home Network, a leading organization committed to combating domestic violence and supporting those we serve. Heart Home network aims to empower individuals and families by fostering independence and resilience in a safe, supportive environment.



Dr. Christie Pettipas - she/her

Dr. Christie Pettipas is an instructor in the social work program at Bow Valley College. She has experience working in the non-profit, education and health care sectors in a variety of capacities with a focus on program and policy development, and evaluation.



Yolanda Watson - she/her

Yolanda Watson is the Program Chair of the Social Work and Addictions program at Bow Valley College. Yolanda has extensive experience working within interprofessional teams in the justice system, health care system, education system, and non-profit agencies, primarily working with at-risk youth and with survivors of violence.



Dee Adekubge - she/her

Dee Adekugbe is the founder and Executive Director of Ruth's House. She has been providing support to the community for over 30 years. Dee also has a lived experience of gender-based violence and is knowledgeable and has insight and wisdom in education, prevention and intervention to eradicate gender-based violence in the community.



Anna Ikechi - she/her

Anna Ikechi is a Master's Student in Social Work who has dedicated herself to addressing gender-based violence in the African community through research, community engagement and direct client services. Anna is passionate about her work, her community and her involvement in research.



Nora-Lee Rear - sh/im

Nora-Lee Rear has been with CWSS for 10 years and brings 25 years of experience and leadership in responding to IPV from a Trauma Informed lens as well as retaining and supporting a diverse staff.



Speaker and Presenter Bios

Devona Gibson - *she/her*

Devona Gibson has worked as Program Coordinator for 8 years. She has started a monthly meeting for Shelter Coordinators to share best practices in both client and staff service and is devoted to improving Trauma Informed practices.



Tammy Giroux - *she/her*

Tammy Giroux quickly implemented a variety of culturally-specific programming when she took the role of Family Support Coordinator. Enhancing the Elder program, introducing regular craft and beadwork sessions, creating displays to acknowledge culturally important holidays, and working closely with clients in their family needs. Tammy inspires creativity in client service.



Leslie Lindballe - *she/her*

Leslie Lindballe has played multiple roles in both shelter and community and brings her full range of connections to client service in the Outreach team. Bridging the gap between shelter and community, Leslie helps clients feel at home in our rural city and relies upon NGO, government, business, and educational relationships to serve clients holistically.



MaryDawn Eggleton - *she/her*

MaryDawn Eggleton, a Psychological Health and Safety Advisor with 25+ years of frontline services experience, is the Program Manager at Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter, fostering a supportive, respectful community for guests and staff.



Ashley Baxter - she/her

Ashley Baxter, Director of Shelter Operations at WIN House, leads three shelters supporting women and children fleeing violence. With over a decade of experience, she integrates trauma-informed care and holistic recovery principles, fostering long-term stability, empowerment, and community reintegration for vulnerable clients.



Nova Winter - she/her

Nova Winter, Shelter Manager at WIN House, brings over five years of experience in trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, and shelter management. She fosters a supportive, client-centered environment, empowering women and children fleeing violence while ensuring smooth operations and community partnerships for enhanced service delivery.



Kathryn Ford - she/her

Kathryn Ford has worked with the SPARK Foundation of Lloydminster (formally known as Lloydminster Interval Home Society) since 2014, guiding and supporting community and residential program services and staff. She is passionate about work that supports and empowers women to recognize their strengths and build on their wellbeing.



Dr. Nicole Letourneau - she/her

Dr. Nicole Letourneau is a University of Calgary Research Excellence Chair in Parent and Child Health. She is RESOLVE Alberta Director, AVA CIHR National Health Research Training Platform & Women's and Girls' Health Hub Scientific Director, and 2022 Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal recipient for domestic abuse prevention.



Mary McGuire - she/her

Mary, a Project Manager with the Rural Development Network, has managed projects related to capacity building in the gender-based violence (GBV) sector, aging in place, and dementia inclusivity. A MacEwan University Social Work graduate, Mary has dedicated her career to coordination, engagement, and front-line roles within the GBV sector.



Speaker and Presenter Bios

Susana Vela - *she/her*
Speaker bio to follow.





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